



Loughton Urban District Council.

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


AND

Inspector of Nuisances,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1923.

BUCKHURST HILL:

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Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1923.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughton Urban District Council.

SIRS,

I have the honour to present you my Annual Report in the form directed by the Ministry of Health.

I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,961
Population (1923)	5,748
Number of Inhabited houses (1923) about...	1,400
(Number of working classes houses, 620).	
Number of separate families, or separate occupiers (1923) not available.	
Rateable Value	£40909 os. od.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£146 13s. 2d.

II.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births	{ Legitimate ... 80	| 44	| 36	} Birth rate 15·1
	{ Illegitimate... 5	| 3	| 2	
Deaths	... .. 49	| 28	| 21	Death rate 8.5
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth ...				from Sepsis ... 0
				„ other causes 0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year, per 1000 births				... 0
Legitimate	... 0.	Illegitimate	... 0.	Total 0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				... 1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)				... 0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				... 0

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Under one year	... ..	0
1 and under 2	... ..	0
2 „ „ 5	... ..	0
5 „ „ 15	... ..	1
15 „ „ 25	... ..	1
25 „ „ 45	... ..	4
45 „ „ 65	... ..	12
65 and upwards	... ..	31
Total		49

These statistics are very satisfactory, particularly the nil infant mortality.

The death rate is the lowest in the district for the past 30 years.

There was one case of suicide.

There were no deaths from violence.

Comparative Table of Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1923.

(Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1923, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1922. The Mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	19'7	11'6	0'01	0'00	0'14	0'03	0'10	0'07	0'22	0'44	7'7	69	92'0	6'9	1'1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20'4	11'6	0'01	0'00	0'15	0'03	0'12	0'09	0'22	0'40	9'9	72	92'2	7'2	0'6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	19'8	10'6	0'01	—	0'19	0'02	0'10	0'06	0'21	0'38	6'4	69	92'6	6'1	1'3
London	20'2	11'2	0'01	0'00	0'08	0'02	0'09	0'13	0'17	0'45	10'2	60	90'8	9'1	0'1
Loughton	15'1	8'5	0'00	0'00	0'17	0'00	0'00	0'00	0'00	0'00	0'0	0	98'1	1'9	0'0

III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

The statistics of Infectious Diseases are unusually satisfactory for the year, as will be seen by a study of the following table.

					Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	0	0	NIL.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	17	12
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0	
Tuberculosis—							
(a) Pulmonary	...	{ M	0	...	...
		{ F	5	...	...
		{ Total	—5	...	5		
(b) Non-Pulmonary	...	{ M	0	...	0		
		{ F	0	...	0		
		{ Total	—0	...	0		
Chicken Pox					12		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0		
TOTALS	35	13	0

IV.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There was no particular outbreak of disease in the district in 1923 which calls for attention.

V.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS,
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE
FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME—

(a) General—A Queen’s Nurse, Supported by Voluntary Contributions.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, Measles, etc. The Queen’s Nurse.
This Nurse also acts as Health Visitor.

MIDWIVES—

One only, earning her own fees, not subsidised, but under the control of the County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES—

The Child Welfare Centre, situated at the Wesleyan Schools. Accommodation consists of a large Reception Room for undressing and weighing; and an adjoining Room for Consultations under the Medical Officer, provided by the Local Authority. A Staff of Voluntary Helpers carry out the work of Reception, Weighing and the Clerical duties. The Health Visitor attends the weekly meetings.

SCHOOL CLINICS—

The School Clinic for Loughton children is at Woodford, and is under the management of the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS—

A County Council Tuberculosis Officer lives within two miles. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Epping, five miles distant.

VENEREAL DISEASES—

The County Council has arrangements whereby cases may be sent to London Centres.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL—

- (1) Tuberculosis: Various Institutions in the County, provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity: Nil.
- (3) Children: Nil.
- (4) Fever: An arrangement for beds in the Walthamstow Isolation Hospital made by the Local Authority.
- (5) Smallpox: Arrangements have been made with the East Ham Borough Council to remove and isolate cases at its Smallpox Hospital.

OTHER HOSPITALS—

The Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill, provides all the general needs, surgical and medical, of the district. It is supported by Voluntary Contributions, together with payments by Patients.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants in the district. Homeless children are taken in by a Voluntary Association, called "St. Faiths'." It is not confined to Loughton district, and it is not subsidised by the Local Authority. It is situated in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

- (a) Infectious cases are removed to Walthamstow Isolation Hospital by the Ambulance belonging to that Institution.
- (b) There are no Ambulance facilities for removing non-infectious cases and accidents.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE REPORT—

The work of the Centre has steadily increased during the year. It is satisfactory to note that no infants under one year of age died during the year in this district.

The voluntary help given by the staff of workers under the able superintendence of Mrs. FEATHERSTONHAUGH is much appreciated by the Medical Officer and Health Visitor. With regard to Teas and the social amenities the Centre is self-supporting, and donations provide a fund for special nourishment and other necessities. The Local Authority has accordingly been saved expenditure beyond the hire of the rooms and salaries to the Medical Officer and Health Visitor.

The Annual Infant Competition was held in the Summer, the judging of which was kindly carried out by Dr. HODGE, of Woodford. The Prizes and an excellent Tea afterwards was provided partly out of the profits of the Weekly Teas and partly by the generosity of Mrs. FEATHERSTONHAUGH and her friends.

Nurse JONES, C.M.B., in addition to the duties as Midwife, has recently been appointed a Health Visitor under the Act. The Parish of St. Mary has been allotted to her, St. John's being retained by Nurse FLANDERS.

It should be pointed out that the Infant Welfare Centre exists as an opportunity for instruction and guidance to all mothers resident in the District, and that in no sense is it to be regarded as either a charity or as taking the place of the usual consultations with the private Practitioner should sickness occur. A continuous detailed medical record is kept of every infant attending the Centre.

It is hoped that eventually a close liaison will be established between the Centre and the School Medical Authorities so that it may become customary for the Welfare Records to be passed on when the child reaches school age.

Number on Register, Jan. 1st, 1923	...	122
„ „ Dec. 31st, 1923	...	166
		—
Increase during the year	... ..	49
Ages on Entry—Under 1 year	... ..	41
Over 1 year and under 2	...	2
Over 2 years	... ..	1
Number of attendances	... ..	1968
Visits paid by Health Visitors	... ..	564

VI.

LABORATORY WORK.

Samples of Sputa and Throat Swabs for Diphtheria are cultured and examined by the Medical Officer of Health in his private laboratory.

Anti-toxin and other sera are provided by the Local Authority and are issued on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

Local and Adoptive Acts.—The following Adoptive Acts are in force :

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 3.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9.

Bye-Laws :

New Streets and Buildings.

Respecting Nuisances.

,, Slaughter-houses.

,, Re-laying drains to existing houses.

Dairy Regulations and Dairy Cowsheds and Milk Shops
Order, 1885.

VII.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances is given in the attached summary :

No. of Inspections made	...	...	996
,, Nuisances reported	...	...	52
Informal Notices served	...	...	38
Complaints received	...	...	—
Statutory Notices served	...	...	6
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	36
Summonses or Legal Proceedings	...	...	—

INSPECTIONS.

	No. on		No. of		
	No.	Register.	Licensed.	Inspections.	Condition.
Bakehouses	...	4	4	—	48 Good.
Slaughter-houses	3	1	2	36	,,

DISINFECTING is carried out by spraying and fumigating with
“Formalin.”

COWKEEPERS, 5 ; Visits, 96.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS, 3 ; Visits, 36.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS : Administered by County Council.

VIII.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) : A. BUTLER HARRIS, M.A.,
M.B., B.Ch., Oxon.

Sanitary Inspector (part time) : J. T. HEATH, A.R., San. I.

Health Visitors (part time) : Miss W. S. FLANDERS, Queen's
Nurse, and Nurse G. JONES, C.M.B., Registered Midwife.

HOUSING.

The high cost of building since the War has precluded the possibility of erecting Cottage property, beyond the few houses built in Victory Way by the Local Authority.

In the meanwhile the working population has increased beyond a legitimate housing capacity with the result that there are not a few instances of more than one family occupying a cottage primarily intended for one family only. There has in consequence arisen a sanitary problem which cannot be solved until the obvious remedy is forthcoming. In addition there are some cottages which, if there existed an alternative accommodation, should be closed as unfit for habitation.

The need is the more pressing since not a few of these insanitary dwellings are utterly overcrowded.

In the near future, however, 35 small houses will be erected in Victory Way under the Government Subsidy. It is estimated that at least 60-70 new cottages are required for the working classes.

The tendency has rather been during the past four years for speculative builders to run up small bungalows and to sell them to people of restricted incomes at prices far above their means, but who have been compelled to purchase for want of other accommodation.

It is to be hoped that in the near future either public or private enterprise will relieve this congestion as far as the working class is concerned in this district. For although it is not a vital matter for the residential population to increase in this locality, it is essential that the population required for the work of the district should be adequately housed. As there are no workmen's trains, it cannot be advanced as an excuse in this case that the working class congestion is due to an influx of people from outside seeking a roof over their heads.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total ...	...	...	...	...	33
(b) As part of Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	—

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	48
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	48
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	25
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	35
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	25
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	—
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by Owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—
C. <i>Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.</i>	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

(1) Name of area	} No Unhealthy Area.
(2) Acreage	...	...	...
(3) Number of Working-Class Houses in area	...	...	...
(4) Number of Working-Class Persons to be displaced	...	...	...
IV.—Number of Houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town- Planning, &c., Act, 1919				} 1

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. BUTLER HARRIS, M.A., M.B. B.CH., OXON.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Carried out under the SANITARY INSPECTOR
in the Urban District of Loughton during the
Year ended December 31st, 1923.

Outstanding Nuisances, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	—
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	...	...	...	52
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	52
Notices Served (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ H. & T. P. A., Sec. 27	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ „ 17	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ „ „ 15	...	...	...	...	...	1
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cottages inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 27...	...	...	...	...	...	48
„ „ „ „ „ 17...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ „ „ „ 15...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Increase of Rents and Mortgage Acts —Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	...	...	...	...	Visits	—
Slaughter-houses (3 in district)	...	...	...	...	„	36
Bakehouses inspected (4 in district)	...	...	...	...	„	48
Dairies and Milkshops (3)	...	...	...	...	„	36
Cowkeepers (5 in district)	...	...	...	...	„	96
Workshops and Workplaces (14)	...	...	...	...	„	62
Factories (7)	...	...	...	...	„	19
Filthy Houses cleansed. Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses placed in habitable repair...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses connected with sewers	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ „ „ water mains	...	...	...	...	...	33
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered:						
Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains entirely re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains amended	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	22
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	...	...	...	—
Condemnation of unsound meat, bacon, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, cottages, dustbins, workshops, workplaces and factories, bakehouses, dairies and slaughter-houses, has been 996.

The house refuse is now collected weekly by Contract. 937 loads were collected in 1923.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX.

 RAINFALL, 1923.
 IN INCHES.

				Buckhurst Hill.	High Beech.
January	...	...	...	1.11	1.24
February	...	...	...	3.25	3.20
March	...	...	...	2.08	2.01
April	...	...	...	1.48	1.73
May	...	...	...	1.74	1.67
June	...	...	...	0.68	0.70
July	...	...	...	2.82	2.82
August	...	...	...	1.89	1.60
September	...	...	...	1.61	1.67
October	...	...	...	4.94	5.18
November	...	...	...	1.82	1.94
December	...	...	...	2.19	2.29
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	...	...	...	<u>25.61</u>	<u>26.05</u>

There being no public or private meteorological station in the district the above records are inserted with the suggestion that possibly Loughton comes midway between.

